

Harrington-Waddell Elementary School
100 Pendleton Place
Lexington, VA 24450



August 28, 2017

Dear Third Grade Parents:

Waddell Elementary School has accepted the opportunity to participate in a water safety initiative program this fall offered by the Friends of Rockbridge Swimming (FOR Swimming, Inc.). FOR Swimming, Inc. is a local non-profit organization that was formed in 2004 to provide aquatic education, opportunity and support to Rockbridge area youth and adults. The organization's initial project was the construction of the Community Pool on Wallace Street that provides year round swimming opportunities. A couple years ago, FOR Swimming, Inc. became a local partner in the "Make a Splash Program", a national child-focused water safety initiative created by the USA Swimming Foundation. With drowning being the second leading cause of death in children eleven years of age and under, the "Make a Splash Program" was launched in 2007 to educate the public on the importance of learning how to swim.

The goal of the partnership with Waddell Elementary School is to provide water safety classes to all 3rd grade students. During September, each third grade class will spend three afternoons at the indoor Community Pool. During this time, students will participate in group swimming lessons based on their current level of ability. All students, regardless of prior swimming experience should be "water-proofed" at the conclusion of the program. FOR Swimming, Inc. is currently fundraising to have scholarships available for those that may need assistance with additional swim lessons to meet this goal after the completion of the Waddell Program. The Waddell program will culminate with a 3rd grade pool party at Lexington's outdoor pool near the end of the school year.

Additional information is on the back of this letter with the dates, logistics of the program, and a permission slip. If you have questions regarding the classes, you can contact Leslie Ayers at leslie@rockbridgeswims.org or your child's teacher.

Third Grade Team
Mrs. Laubscher, Mrs. Rowsey and Mrs. Squire

